

Interpersonal Communication UG 40739 COM 101-02 MWF 08:00-08:50 am **GODDAR 202**  
**Tentative course schedule:** 01/24-05/21 **Spring 2005** **Emil Coman**

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignment due
01/24-01/28	Introduction; Universals of interpersonal comm.	Ch. 1	
01/31-02/04	Culture in comm.	Ch. 2	
02/07-02/11	The self in comm.	Ch. 3	02/11-QUIZ 1 Ch. 1-3
02/14-02/16	Perception Fri 02/18-no class: Lincoln's Birthday	Ch. 4	02/16-FIRST Journal check Ch. 1-4
02/23-02/25	Mon 02/21-no class: Washington's BD Listening & Verbal comm.: Universals	Ch. 5 & 6	
02/28-03/4	Verbal Messages	Ch. 6 & 7	<i>you'll get a review sheet!</i>
03/07-03/11	MIDTERM 03/11 & Nonverbal comm. & Review of the midterm	Ch. 8	Get ready for MIDTERM Ch. 1-7
03/14-03/18	Nonverbal comm. & Conversation	Ch. 8 & 9	
03/21-03/25	<b>NO CLASSES: SPRING recess</b>		
03/28-04/01	<b>Universals of Interpersonal comm.</b>	Ch. 10	04/01-LAST Journal check Ch. 6-10
04/04-04/08	Relationships: growth & deterioration	Ch. 11	04/08-QUIZ 2 Ch. 10-11
04/11-04/15	Friendship, Love, Family, and Workplace	Ch. 12	
04/18-04/22	Conflict in Interpersonal Relationships <i>How to research for a paper</i>	Ch. 13	
04/25-04/29	Power in Interpersonal relationships-I + On writing a good research paper	Ch. 14	04-29: FINAL PAPER DUE
05/02-05/06	Power – II	Ch. 14	
05/09-05/11	Synthesis topics & Review for Final		
	<b>FINAL exam: Mon. May 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00am - Same room</b>		Come prepared for FINAL Ch. 8-14: not cumulative!

Room for updates: changes:

For your midterm and final you'll be provided with review sheets; these will be mostly based on MAIN concepts, the ones you will be accustomed to through lectures/readings. A detailed (shorter) review sheet will be provided. **Instructor: Emil Coman** Phone: 860-465-4340 email: [comprocess@yahoo.com](mailto:comprocess@yahoo.com)  
 Office Hours: Mo., Wed., & Fri. 10:00-11:00 & by appointment; Mail Box: **Media Center r. 253**  
 Office: **Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**, Electronic Research area (behind the computers, by window, table with chairs next to printers); **web site: [www.geocities.com/comprocess](http://www.geocities.com/comprocess)** (if you ever forget it, just "google" e.g. my name or "ECSU AND interpersonal") e-Fax: 1-831-618-6452 (long distance!)

**Course Description:** This basic course examines the various ways in which we interact and communicate, verbally, nonverbally and emotionally, in friendships, romantic relationships, family, at work, in public settings. Specific barriers interfering with successful communication will be analyzed and strategies to improve the effectiveness of communication will be suggested and discussed.

**Course objectives:**

- to understand the processes of forming, maintaining and repairing relationships;
- to understand the impact of verbal, nonverbal, & emotional exchanges on human interactions;
- to develop an awareness of the roles of power, conflict and culture in interpersonal relations;
- to increase your own interpersonal communicative effectiveness while helping others too;
- to relate the experiences and the study of interpersonal communications processes to scientific communication theory.
- to improve your scholarly researching skills and your ability to construct convincing research papers and presentations.

**Textbook:** DeVito, Joseph (2004). *The Interpersonal Communication Book*. 10<sup>th</sup> edition, NY Longman.

**Grades** - will be based on the following:

**50 % Exams** Objective tests based on readings, lectures and class exercises.

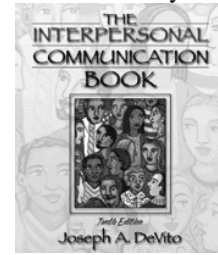
Midterm 25%+Final 25 %.

**10% Quizzes** #1= 5% + #2 = 5 %

**20 % Interactional journals** (due 2 times, see schedule)

**10 % Final Research Paper**

**10 % Participation:** Attendance-8% + Class Participation-2% (*Right/Left hand™*)



\* **EXAMS:** Will be composed of approx. 50 questions, most likely 40 multiple choice & 10 true/false.

*Lectures notes will be posted online before classes, in case you wish to print them out. Updates and announcements and other instructions will be also posted on web site, so check it regularly. There is also an addendum to syllabus posted, on accommodating disabilities, plagiarism, and extra credit.*

\* **QUIZZES:** 2 composed of 10 multiple choice or/& true/false questions each.

\* **INTERACTIONAL JOURNALS:** A big chunk of your grade is based on your **interactional journals**. What I mean by these journals: they should be weekly reactions you should write about some real interactions. Reflect on your relationships, gather your thoughts stirred by the textbook material and lectures, and most importantly think about how those topics relate to your own life. Think of specific instances from your current life experiences on campus, around it, at home, etc., which reflect or relate to the topics we have assigned (say e.g. emotions and communications; don't make it too personal though - no names - & not *too* private or intimate problems, reserve those for Dr. Laura...). Or, even better, how you see them helping your future interactions or activities, how could you apply this knowledge to improve your real social life. Here are some starting points you may consider:

- *DO NOT summarize the chapter or lecture, just reflect on your real interpersonal experiences, past or future; could also pick 1 or 2 topics/concepts from lecture/text and connect/relate them.*

- *What idea, hypothesis, theory, argument, statement, fact, stroke you and made you think (and either accept it or reject/not believe it) and perhaps re-evaluate your own (or others') communication style and face-to-face or computer mediated interactions, conversations, or relationships?*

- *Has anything in your personal/professional life happened that has direct ties to what you read (listened to) this week?*

- *Did any of the exercises or discussions made you want to discuss them with someone? Why? With what effects? Make sure you refer to some concepts from the chapter(s): this will get your journal grade from almost Max. to Max.*

- *Format: (1). Typed; 1 ½ to double spaced, font size no larger than 12, for Times New Roman. (2). Each entry must be at least one page in length. (3). NO BINDERS PLEASE: just staple them! (4). Make sure your name is on EACH journal. (5). Please edit carefully (proofread! 5% of grade is based on grammar and spelling). Note: I will deduct five points from the grade on the assignments for each missing guideline.*

\* **RESEARCH PAPER:** The final **paper** will be in essence a culmination of your course work. You have *two options* here:

#### **A. A research paper**

The paper is intended to teach you the process of constructing a convincing research report on a communication topic or thesis, based on reliable sources. Some guidelines for the research paper:

- The research paper will be in essence a persuasive endeavor. I would like you to choose a communication topic of interest to you and present a convincing argument supporting your main thesis.

- You will need to formulate: (a) a specific **thesis statement**, a hypothesis, a theoretical proposition, like "sex role expectations influence relationship satisfaction" and find support in academic literature for it; or (b) a **research question** like "what's the impact of different preferences for specific love types by gender, on relationship satisfaction?" and try to answer it.

- A good suggestion for generating a research question or hypothesis would be to look at the relationship between two communication variables, like "openness" and "length of relationships", or "friendships" and "gender", or "conflict resolution styles" and "marital success", or "attitudes about sex" and "love satisfaction". Propose a specific relationship between these two variables and find support for your research statement.

Some guidelines for the research paper: **1.** At least 3 (three) academic (A peer reviewed) sources quoted in the reference list, according to APA or MLA styles. **2.** Clear research statement (either a hypothesis or a research question) and convincing arguments to support your conclusion. **3.** Clear introduction and conclusion.

**B. A relationship analysis paper**

- Focus on a specific relationship (preferably your own) and analyze its development across the time span of this semester (or longer).
- Use specific theories from textbook to understand, explain, improve/fix, and make predictions about this relationship.
- Conclude with some recommendations for improving this or similar relationships.

\* **Late assignments policy:** It is your responsibility to get the assignments to me on time; I offer you a generous array of channels: in person or by mail (in my dept. mailbox); by email; by fax; & by eFax. You will lose a LETTER GRADE for each day you are late: if the assignment was due today, tomorrow the highest possible grade is already “B” instead of “A” (and so on).

\* **Email submission policy:** in case you will be emailing me your journals or paper, you can do so only in ONE attachment, as a TXT-text file only (not DOC-Word file!!!), or PDF-Acrobat file.

DeVito, Joseph (2004). The Interpersonal Communication Book. 10<sup>th</sup> edition, New York: Longman.

**Table of Contents**

<p><b>1. Universals of Interpersonal Communication.</b>          Nature of Interpersonal Communication.          Elements of Interpersonal Communication.          Axioms of Interpersonal Communication.  <b>2. Culture in Interpersonal Communication.</b>          Culture and Interpersonal Communication.          How Cultures Differ.          Intercultural Communication.  <b>3. The Self in Interpersonal Communication.</b>          Dimensions of the Self.          Self-Disclosure.          Apprehension.  <b>4. Perception in Interpersonal Communication.</b>          Stages of Perception.          Perceptual Processes.          Increasing Accuracy in Interpersonal Perception.  <b>5. Listening in Interpersonal Communication.</b>          Stages of Listening.          Styles of Listening.          Culture, Gender, and Listening.  <b>6. Universals of Verbal and Nonverbal Messages.</b>          Messages and Meanings.          Message Characteristics.          Messages Vary in Inclusion.  <b>7. Verbal Messages.</b>          Language Symbolizes Reality.          Language Expresses Both Facts and Inferences.          Language Expresses Both Denotation and Connotation.          Language Can Praise and Criticize.          Language Can Obscure Distinctions.          Language Can Confirm and Disconfirm.  <b>8. Nonverbal Messages.</b>          Body Communication.          Facial Communication.          Eye Communication.</p>	<p><b>8. Nonverbal Messages-cont.</b>          Touch Communication.          Paralanguage and Silence.          Spatial Messages.          Artifactual Communication.          Temporal Communication.  <b>9. Messages and Conversation.</b>          The Conversation Process.          Conversational Management.          Conversational Problems: Prevention and Repair.  <b>10. Universals of Interpersonal Relationships.</b>          Characteristics of Interpersonal Relationships.          Stages in Interpersonal Relationships.          Relationships in a Context of Culture and Technology.  <b>11. Interpersonal Relationships: Growth and Deterioration.</b>          Relationship Development.          Relationship Maintenance.          Relationship Deterioration.          Relationship Repair.          Relationship Dissolution.  <b>12. Interpersonal Relationships: Friendship, Love, Family, and Workplace.</b>          Friendship.          Love.          Family.          Workplace Relationships.  <b>13. Conflict in Interpersonal Relationships.</b>          Nature of Conflict.          Conflict Resolution Stages.          Conflict Management Strategies.  <b>14. Power in Interpersonal Relationships.</b>          Principles of Power.          Types of Power.          Communicating Power.</p>
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